

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ITALIAN LABOR LEADER STORTI FINALLY GETS GOVERN-
MENT APPOINTMENT: OTHER LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ROME 20476, 20451 AND 19948

1. ON DEC 23, ITALY'S CABINET APPROVED THE LONG-AWAITED NOM-
INATION OF CISL SECGEN BRUNO STORTI AS PRESIDENT OF THE TRI-
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PARTITE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND LABOR COUNCIL (CNEL). STORTI'S
APPOINTMENT BECOMES EFFECTIVE WHEN SIGNED BY PRESIDENT LEONE
AND PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE. STORTI WILL HOLD A PRESS CON-
FERENCE JAN 5, PRESUMABLY TO MAKE HIS PREVIOUSLY-ANNOUNCED
RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE.

2. CISL DEPUTY SECGEN LUIGI MACARIO IS EXPECTED TO ACT AS SECGEN UNTIL CISL'S CONGRESS IN MAY OR JUNE 1977. PRESS AND PRIVATE SPECULATION IS THAT NO NEW INTERIM DEPUTY SECGEN WILL BE NAMED. THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MILITANTS SUPPORTING PIERRE CARNITI AND MODERATES SUPPORTING FRANCO MARINI WILL THUS PROBABLY BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE CONGRESS. THE CISL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING JAN 13-15 IS EXPECTED TO SET CONGRESS DATES AND CONFIRM INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS.

3. LEADERS OF ITALY'S FEDERATION OF LABOR CONFEDERATIONS (CCU) MET WITH ECONOMIC EXPERTS OF MOST PARTIES LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS WHAT TO DO ABOUT ITALY'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS. ALMOST ALL PARTIES URGED FURTHER UNION CONCESSIONS ON THE COST-OF-LIVING ESCALATOR. A CCU DELEGATION ALSO CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT PLANS WITH FINANCE MINISTER PANDOLFI AND OTHER OFFICIALS. THE CCU LEADER'S NEXT MEETING WITH PM ANDREOTTI HAS BEEN POSTPONED FROM DEC 29 TO JAN 5. ON DEC 29, THE CCU AND GOI OFFICIALS WILL NOW HOLD TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PUBLIC INDUSTRY INVESTMENT AND OTHER SUBJECTS. THE CCU LEADERS REPORTEDLY PLAN ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE PARTIES' ECONOMIC EXPERTS BEFORE THEY FACE THEIR OWN FOLLOWERS AT THE JAN 7-8 ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES OF MEMBER UNIONS OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS, IN ROME. UIL SECGEN BEN-VENUTO WILL ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY ON BEHALF OF THE CCU SECRETARIAT.

4. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ITALIAN METALWORKERS' FEDERATION (FLM), WHICH UNITES THE METALWORKERS FEDERATIONS OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS (FIOM/CGIL, FIM/CISL AND UILM), MET DEC 20-21 TO AGREE ON STRATEGY FOR COMPANY-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS.
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THE ATMOSPHERE WAS HEATED, WITH CONSIDERABLE SHARP CRITICISM OF THE NATIONAL LABOR LEADERSHIP (CCU) FOR OFFERING CONCESSIONS TO GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY (CONFININDUSTRIA). ACCORDING TO ONE PROMINENT PARTICIPANT (A CISL MILITANT), THE COMMUNISTS SUCCEEDED ONLY PARTIALLY IN PACIFYING THE WORKERS AND SUPPORTING THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT AUSTERITY PROGRAM.

5. MEANWHILE, THE CCU LEADERSHIP BEGAN MEETINGS WITH UNIONS WITH SPECIAL COST-OF-LIVING ESCALATOR SYSTEMS (E.G., BANK, INSURANCE, MUNICIPAL TRANSIT AND CHEMICAL WORKERS) TO PERSUADE THEM TO REDUCE THEIR BENEFITS TO THE NORM THROUGHOUT INDUSTRY.

6. SEVERAL AUTONOMOUS UNIONS HAVE CANCELLED HOLIDAY STRIKES AND TACITLY ACCEPTED THE CCU-NEGOTIATED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT. THE AUTONOMOUS RAILWAY UNION (FISAFS), HOWEVER, CONFIRMED ITS FOUR-DAY NATIONAL RAIL STRIKE STARTING DEC 29. THE CCU RAIL AFFILIATES WHICH CLAIM 70 PERCENT OF RAILWAY

EMPLOYEES, WILL WORK TO MINIMIZE THE EFFECTS OF THE FISAFS
STRIKE, BUT IT WILL STILL PROBABLY, DISRUPT A LOT OF HOLIDAY
RETURN TRAVEL. VOLPE

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